

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 4. This sheet, which includes Figures 1-5a, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1-5a. Figure 4 has been amended to add the reference numeral --516-- at the end of the lead line pointing toward the junction between wick segments 512 and 514. Support for this amendment may be found on page 5, lines 9-12 of the specification. This amendment corrects a clerical oversight in the original drawings and does not add new matter to the specification.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-39 and 57-61 are pending. Previously withdrawn claims 40-56 have been canceled without prejudice by this amendment, claims 9, 11 and 17-39 have been withdrawn, and claims 57-61 have been allowed, leaving claims 1-8, 10, and 12-16 at issue in the present application.

The undersigned thanks Examiner Barney for the courtesies extended during a telephonic interview on February 14, 2005. The remarks and arguments presented herein are meant to summarize and expand on the substance of that interview.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to overcome the examiner's objection. In particular, a statement has been added that one possible embodiment of the invention includes a wick that is adapted such that a portion of the wick will block an opening into a container when the wick is broken. This amendment to the Abstract of the Disclosure is not meant to limit the claims or otherwise serve to define the scope of the invention, but rather is merely intended to provide a general idea of one of several possible embodiments disclosed in specification.

FIG. 4 of the drawings has been amended as explained in detail previously herein. This amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed and does not add new matter thereto.

Claim 59 has been amended to add a period at the end of the claim sentence. This amendment corrects a typographical error and does not change the scope of the claim.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8, 10, and 12-16 as anticipated by Greatbatch et al. (US5909845).

Claim 1, and claims 2-8, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, recite a wick assembly for use in a dispenser for a volatile liquid. The wick assembly includes a wick having an external surface and a discontinuity formed in the surface providing a location in the wick of less resistance to a force applied to the wick than a location adjacent to the discontinuity. The discontinuity is disposed between a portion of the wick adapted to reside substantially inside the dispenser and a portion of the wick adapted to reside substantially outside the dispenser.

Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate every element of its original base claim 1 and original intervening claim 13, and, as such, encompasses the same scope as originally filed. Claim 14 recites a wick assembly for use in a dispenser for a volatile liquid including a wick having an external surface, a discontinuity formed in the surface providing a location in the wick of less resistance to a force applied to the wick than a location adjacent to the discontinuity, and a retention member defining an opening adapted to be received in another opening of a container for holding the volatile liquid and in which the opening of the retention member receives a portion of the wick therein. The portion of the wick received in the opening of the retention member forms an interference fit with the retention member.

As indicated by the examiner during the above-indicated telephonic interview, the prior art does not disclose or suggest a wick assembly for a volatile liquid dispenser including a wick having a discontinuity, wherein the discontinuity is located outside of the dispenser when the wick is inserted in the dispenser. Therefore, the prior art does not disclose or suggest a wick assembly having including a wick having a discontinuity as recited in claims 1-8, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16, wherein the discontinuity is disposed between a portion of the wick adapted to reside substantially inside the dispenser and a portion of the wick adapted to reside substantially outside the dispenser.

As additionally indicated by the examiner during the above-indicated telephonic interview, the prior art does not disclose or suggest a wick assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the wick includes a portion that is received in an opening of a retention member and forms an interference fit with the retention member.

Rather, Greatbatch et al. discloses a wick assembly for use in a dispenser for a volatile liquid including an elongate wick, a hollow overcap, and a bottle, in which the entire wick is adapted to reside substantially inside the dispenser. The overcap seats within an opening into the bottle and includes a plug section for plugging the bottle opening, a wick opening through the plug section, and an elongate tubular section extending outwardly from the wick opening. The wick is retained within the dispenser by the overcap such that a lower portion of the wick is located entirely inside the bottle and an upper portion of the wick is located substantially inside the tubular section of the overcap. Although the tubular section is described as preferably


conforming closely to the shape of the wick, all the figures, and particularly FIG. 1, show a space between the wick and the tubular section. The space prevents the formation of a friction fit (i.e., an interference fit) between the wick and the tubular section. Therefore, the wick must be retained within the dispenser with an obstruction mechanism, such as, for example, transverse wall 310 depicted in FIG. 1, collar 53 depicted in FIG. 2A, pervious cage 120 and collar 55 depicted in FIG's. 3A and 3B, or step 53 and collar 225 depicted in FIG's. 4A and 4B. All of the obstruction mechanisms disposed on the various wick embodiments are located inside the bottle and the overcap when the wick is retained in the dispenser by the overcap.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims at issue and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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